

Frequently Asked Questions

Final Regulations for Amendment 8 to the Fishery Management Plan for Coral, Coral Reefs, and Live/Hardbottom Habitats of the South Atlantic Region (Coral Amendment 8).

August 2015

What does Coral Amendment 8 do?

- Coral Amendment 8 extends protections for deepwater coral ecosystems by expanding the boundaries of the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, and the Stetson Miami Terrace and Cape Lookout Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern.
- Coral Amendment 8 also implements a transit provision through Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern for fishing vessels with rock shrimp onboard.

Why is Coral Amendment 8 necessary?

- Recent scientific explorations have identified areas of hard bottom habitat including deep water coral outside the boundaries of the existing Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern and Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern.
- The expansion extends current gear prohibitions to these newly identified areas to enhance protection for deepwater coral.
- The modifications to the transit provisions allow rock shrimp fishermen to access additional rock shrimp fishing grounds in less time using less fuel than if the fishermen were required to travel around the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern.

Where can I find the coordinates of the revised Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern?

- Maps and coordinates of the revised Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern can be found on our website at:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/maps_gis_data/fisheries/s_atlantic/index.html.

What are the coordinates for the Oculina Bank Habitat Areas of Particular Concern in the following formats: Decimal Degrees, Degrees Minutes Seconds, or Degree Minutes (also known as Decimal Minutes)?

- Coordinates for the Oculina HAPC in Decimal Degrees, Degrees Minutes Seconds, and Degree Minutes (also known as Decimal Minutes) can be found in [Table 1](#) at the end of this document.

What gear is prohibited in the habitat areas of particular concern?

- In the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, the use of bottom longline, bottom trawl, dredge, pot or trap is prohibited. If aboard a fishing vessel; anchor, use of anchor and chain, and grapple and chain is prohibited.
- In addition to the gear listed above, mid-water trawl is also prohibited in Stetson-Miami Terrace and Cape Lookout Coral Habitat Areas of Particular Concern.

What is the transit provision through Oculina Bank?

- To be exempted from the prohibition on possessing rock shrimp in the Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, a vessel must have a valid commercial permit for rock shrimp.
- Vessels in the area with rock shrimp onboard, are required to maintain a direct and nonstop continuous course through the area at a minimum speed of 5 knots. The speed is determined by a vessel monitoring system approved for the South Atlantic rock shrimp fishery. The vessel monitoring system is required to ping (signal) at a rate of 1 ping per 5 minutes.
- Vessels with rock shrimp onboard in Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern are required to stow gear appropriately with doors and nets out of water and either onboard the deck or below the deck of the vessel.

Who can I talk to regarding my vessel monitoring system and the new requirements?

- If you have questions about your vessel monitoring system, please contact Matt Wallia at 727-824-5334 or Kelly Spalding at 301-427-8269.

When were the regulations effective?

- The regulations were effective on August 17, 2015.

Where can I find more information about the amendment?

- Contact NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office:
 - By Mail: Southeast Regional Office, c/o Karla Gore 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
 - By FAX: (727) 824-5308
 - By Phone: (727) 824-5305
- Coral Amendment 8 is available on line at: NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/coral/2014/am8/index.html or, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Web site: <http://www.safmc.net/>.

Table 1. Coordinates for the Oculina HAPC in Degrees Minutes Seconds, Decimal Degrees, and Degree Minutes (also known as Decimal Minutes).

	Degrees, Minutes, Seconds		Decimal Degrees		Degrees Minutes	
Point	North lat.	West long.	LAT_D.d	LONG_D.d	LAT_DM	LONG_DM
Origin	29°43'29.82"	80°14'55.27"	29.72495000	-80.24868611	29° 43.497'	80° 14.921'
1	29°43'30"	80°15'48.24"	29.72500000	-80.26340000	29° 43.500'	80° 15.804'
2	29°34'51.66"	80°15'00.78"	29.58101667	-80.25021667	29° 34.861'	80° 15.013'
3	29°34'07.38"	80°15'51.66"	29.56871667	-80.26435000	29° 34.123'	80° 15.861'
4	29°29'24.9"	80°15'15.78"	29.49025000	-80.25438333	29° 29.415'	80° 15.263'
5	29°09'32.52"	80°12'17.22"	29.15903333	-80.20478333	29° 09.542'	80° 12.287'
6	29°04'45.18"	80°10'12"	29.07921667	-80.17000000	29° 04.753'	80° 10.200'
7	28°56'01.86"	80°07'53.64"	28.93385000	-80.13156667	28° 56.031'	80° 07.894'
8	28°52'44.4"	80°07'53.04"	28.87900000	-80.13140000	28° 52.740'	80° 07.884'
9	28°47'28.56"	80°07'07.44"	28.79126667	-80.11873333	28° 47.476'	80° 07.124'
10	28°46'13.68"	80°07'15.9"	28.77046667	-80.12108333	28° 46.228'	80° 07.265'
11	28°41'16.32"	80°05'58.74"	28.68786667	-80.09965000	28° 41.272'	80° 05.979'
12	28°35'05.76"	80°05'14.28"	28.58493333	-80.08730000	28° 35.096'	80° 05.238'
13	28°33'50.94"	80°05'24.6"	28.56415000	-80.09016667	28° 33.849'	80° 05.410'
14	28°30'51.36"	80°04'23.94"	28.51426667	-80.07331667	28° 30.856'	80° 04.399'
15	28°30'00"	80°03'57.3"	28.50000000	-80.06591667	28° 30.000'	80° 03.955'
16	28°30'	80°03'	28.50000000	-80.05000000	28° 30.000'	80° 03.000'
17	28°16'	80°03'	28.26666667	-80.05000000	28° 16.000'	80° 03.000'
18	28°04'30"	80°01'10.08"	28.07500000	-80.01946667	28° 04.500'	80° 01.168'
19	28°04'30"	80°00'	28.07500000	-80.00000000	28° 04.500'	80° 00.000'
20	27°30'	80°00'	27.50000000	-80.00000000	27° 30.000'	80° 00.000'
21	27°30'	79°54'0"	27.50000000	-79.90000000	27° 30.000'	79° 54.000'
22	28°30'00"	79°56'56"	28.50000000	-79.94888889	28° 30.000'	79° 56.933'
23	28°30'00"	80°00'46.02"	28.50000000	-80.01278333	28° 30.000'	80° 00.767'
24	28°46'00.84"	80°03'28.5"	28.76690000	-80.05791667	28° 46.014'	80° 03.475'
25	28°48'37.14"	80°03'56.76"	28.81031667	-80.06576667	28° 48.619'	80° 03.946'
26	28°53'18.36"	80°04'48.84"	28.88843333	-80.08023333	28° 53.306'	80° 04.814'
27	29°11'19.62"	80°08'36.9"	29.18878333	-80.14358333	29° 11.327'	80° 08.615'
28	29°17'33.96"	80°10'06.9"	29.29276667	-80.16858333	29° 17.566'	80° 10.115'
29	29°23'35.34"	80°11'30.06"	29.39315000	-80.19168333	29° 23.589'	80° 11.501'
30	29°30'15.72"	80°12'38.88"	29.50436667	-80.21080000	29° 30.262'	80° 12.648'
31	29°35'55.86"	80°13'41.04"	29.59885000	-80.22806667	29° 35.931'	80° 13.684'
Origin	29°43'29.82"	80°14'55.27"	29.72495000	-80.24868611	29° 43.497'	80° 14.921'